

Chairman's Report 2019/20

Financial Report:

The full accounts can be accessed via the Parish Council website at www.lowickandsliptonpc.co.uk

The Council is adequately funded to cover the activity detailed below and the normal associated costs of the Council.

Council Activity:

Street Lighting:

The Parish Council is pleased to report we have made progress on the installation of new Street Lighting with 24 of 25 new units installed this year.

The new LED lighting has been well received and makes a significant difference to both the safety of the Parish and a reduction in light pollution and a dramatic reduction in energy costs. The capital cost of installation will be covered in the reduction in running costs over the next 3-4 years and at that point, the overall running costs of the Parish will drop.

Installation of 2 Defibrillators:

We finally secured the ownership of the redundant BT Phone boxes and are now in the process of restoring them to their former glory and installing a defibrillator in each. The Heating cabinets and power supply have already been installed and work will commence shortly to restore the boxes.

As part of the successful application for partial funding from the British Heart Foundation, we are committing to undertake a number of CPR training sessions with kit and instruction supplied by the BHF free of charge.

In addition, we have secured a local grant from the Market Harborough Building Society and funding from ENC meaning the direct cost to the Parish Council of the installation is significantly lower than originally budgeted for. This has a positive impact on reserves.

Lowick Pocket Park:

The Council is currently in the process of being appointed as the sole trustee of the Lowick Pocket Park Charity and will undertake the ongoing maintenance of the Park going forward.

Whilst the Park is not an "asset" of the council it makes sense to bring its management under the Council responsibility. The running costs and donations from local fund raisers are ringfenced.

Council Members:

The Council was delighted to welcome 4 new Councillors in April this year. 2 Councillors (Gordon Edwards and Stuart Lewis) stepped down meaning the Councillor numbers have now increased to 7, the maximum number permitted for the size of the Parish. This ensures we have strength in numbers to cover Council duties and meetings going forward. Many thanks to Gordon and Stuart for their contribution over the last few years and welcome:

- Angela Fenton (Slipton)
- David Chipchase (Lowick)
- Jonathan Beardmore (Lowick)
- Sean Gardener (Lowick)

As new Councillors.

Administration:

The Council was delighted to appoint Nicki Phillips to the post of Parish Clerk in July 2019. Nicki brings a wealth of experience to the post as she is already Clerk to 2 other local Parish Councils. The Parish therefore benefits from not only her experience, but shared costs in training and, to a degree, general running costs of the Council.

Nicki replaced Filomena Palmer as Clerk and the Council would again like to thank Filomena for her contribution.

Gary Britton, Chairman, Lowick and Slipton Parish Council

May 2020